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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,803	09/08/2003	Masaaki Abe	81751.0064	1158

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MINH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2816

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/657,803

Applicant(s)

ABE, MASA AKI

Examiner

Minh Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,16,21,23,25,27 and 29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,21,23,25,27 and 29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment filed on 11/05/04 has been received and entered in the case. Claims 1, 6, 16, 21, 23, 25, 27 and 29 are pending. The amendment and argument presented therein overcome the indefiniteness rejections and the prior art rejections, and therefore, these are withdrawn. New ground of rejection to claim 6 necessitated by the amendment is set forth below. This action is FINAL.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 6 and 21-22 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 3, "a setting state of a fuse element" should be changed to -- the setting state of the fuse element -- to avoid potential antecedent basis problem, see line 2.

In claim 6, line 3, the same problem exists as discussed in claim 1.

In claim 21, line 7, "the cyclic signal" should be changed to -- a cyclic signal --,

line 11, "a cyclic signal" should be changed to -- the cyclic signal --.

In claim 22, the same problems exist as discussed in claim 21.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No.

5,677,917, issued to Wheelus et al.

Wheelus discloses a fuse circuit (Fig. 1) for adjusting an analog value (this limitation is merely an intended use of the fuse circuit), comprising:

a latch circuit (26) which stores a setting state of a fuse element (the setting value of fuse element 21 is at the D input terminal of latch 26 and set by the fuse element 21, either blown or not, column 3, lines 40-43. The setting is cyclically latched and appeared at Q output terminal of latch 26 by the clock signal CLOCK); and

a latch clock generation circuit (Fig. 3, inverters 81 and 87) which generates a latch clock (ICLK) based on a cyclic signal (the clock signal CLOCK is clearly a cyclic signal), the latch clock being used for fetching the setting state of the fuse element into the latch circuit (Fig. 3, the data D from the fuse element is passed by the transmission gates 51 and 55 and 61 and the signal latch clock ICLK),

wherein the latch circuit cyclically fetches the setting state of the fuse element based on the latch clock (as shown, at each rising (trailing) edge of the clock, the state of the fuse element 21 is transferred to the output terminal Q of the latch 26), and

wherein the cyclic signal is one of a frame signal FR, a start pulse signal YD, and a latch pulse signal LP, which specifies one vertical scanning period or one horizontal scanning period and an alternating signal which is used for inverting a voltage applied to a liquid crystal (the recited limitation only requires the cyclic signal is one of the recited signals. Because the

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Wheelus CLOCK cyclic signal is clearly an alternating signal, the recited limitation is met. Note that the recited limitation “which is used for inverting a voltage applied to a liquid crystal” is merely an intended use of the alternating signal, and because the Wheelus CLOCK clearly can be used for such a purpose, the recited intended use is also met).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1, 21, 23, 25, 27 and 29 are allowed after the informality objections noted above are overcome. These claims are allowed for the reasons noted in the previous Office action.

6. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claim is allowable for the reason noted in the previous Office action.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Nguyen whose telephone number is **571-272-1748**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



11/18/04

Minh Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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